

# Migration: How many Gozitans were born overseas?

According to the 1995 Census, a considerable proportion of the population of Gozo were born overseas. In fact, 2549, or 8.78 per cent of the Gozo population persons were born overseas.

The following graph shows that the proportion of the population in a

particular locality in Gozo born overseas varies from a low of 5.6 % in Ghasri to a high of 12.8 % in Ghajnsielem. In fact, six of the 14 localities shown, namely, Ghajnsielem, Gharb, Nadur, Munxar, Qala and Żebbuġ, have more than 10 percent of their population born overseas. At the other end of the scale, we find Ghasri, Kerċem and Victoria with around 5% of their population born overseas.

Australia has contributed the largest numbers of overseas-born. However, in Ghajnsielem, Nadur, and Ghasri, the largest number overseas born came from USA, with Australia taking second place.

The age distribution of persons born overseas is not readily available from the Census data. However, it is reasonable to speculate that most of them came as young members of families. The number of returning migrants reached a peak in the 1970s (see Cauchi, 1999) For the last several years the number of migrants going in either direction has become a mere trickle. It is therefore unlikely that the proportion of over-seas born will change significantly over the coming years.

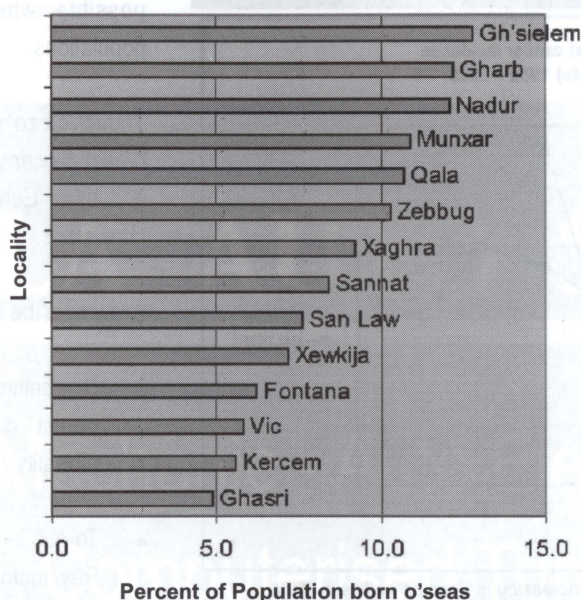
[See Cauchi, M.N., 1999: *The Maltese Migrant Experience*, Malta 1999]

*Definition of a migrant:  
A life in a new language.*

[After Eva Hoffman:

*Lost in Translation*, Minerva 1989]

**Gozo: Country of Birth**



Locality	Austr.	USA	Can.	UK	Total No.
Fontana	43.1	15.7	21.7	11.8	51
Gh'sielem	26.2	32.6	22.2	10.0	279
Gharb	45.2	6.3	12.7	23.8	126
Ghasri	38.9	0	0	50.0	18
Kerċem	54.0	11.5	11.5	18.4	87
Munxar	58.8	2.3	9.4	27.1	85
Nadur	27.6	36.7	17.4	15.7	471
Qala	31.8	29.4	24.3	10.0	160
Victoria	40.3	14.7	26.2	12.3	382
San Lawrenz	52.3	11.9	11.9	21.4	42
Sannat	49.6	11.6	23.7	8.9	135
Xaghra	58.4	11.8	8.3	16.5	339
Xewkija	58.2	20.9	9.8	5.8	225
Żebbuġ	42.9	10.7	14.1	18.8	149

**Table: Place of birth of Gozitan residents born overseas  
[Over-seas born population is indicated as percentage]**